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### Comparative NET Daily Circulation of The Times and The Star for August:

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### LEADER MURPHY AND JUDGE WILLIAM J. GAYNOR.

At this time, when there are decided indications that Tammany will have things pretty thoroughly in its own hands in the New York city campaign a bit of history which was made at Denver last year in July has especial interest to the metropolis and the country; especially to the national Democracy.

Indications are, today, that Tammany's nominee will be the next mayor, as a result of a new manifestation of that traditional incompetency which Tammany's opposition is wont to display whenever it gets a chance to accomplish something. Judge Gaynor is plainly the man whom the best political judges regard as the strong candidate. But it is not safe to assume that Tammany will nominate him, if before the Tammany nomination is made, the opposition can be maneuvered into a position of such confusion that a man weaker than Gaynor, but more suited to Tammany's requirements, will have a good chance to win.

Tammany, in short, will nominate so good a man as Gaynor only in case it sees it must put forward its very best foot to win.

It will nominate a better machine man if it is certain such a man can be elected.

In July, 1908, when the Democratic national convention met in Denver, there was a determined movement in favor of Gaynor for Vice President. Most of the sincere friends of Bryan wanted Gaynor on the ticket. There is little doubt that a majority of the convention was honestly of opinion that he was the best man to nominate.

But Tammany would not assent. Protesting that "if the convention really thinks it is good politics, New York will give its vote to Gaynor," Murphy still held out against the man from his home city. At length some of the Middle Western Democratic leaders went to Murphy and insisted on knowing his conclusion. The convention wanted Gaynor, they believed; but it would not force him against New York's wish. But would Mr. Murphy please explain why he doubted Gaynor's strength?

With show of much reluctance, the Tammany leader proceeded to what seemed a most frank statement, which was certainly effective. Some of the men who had come to discuss the matter with Murphy were members of the Catholic church; and Murphy addressed himself especially to these.

"Judge Gaynor," he explained, "is a Catholic, but he has been divorced. That fact has never apparently weakened him as a political candidate in New York city, where the case is thoroughly understood and where Judge Gaynor's record and standing as a man are unquestioned. But frankly, we have feared that, in view of the deep-seated convictions of Catholics on the subject of divorce, his nomination would cost the party many votes in the country at large. That is all there is to it. We leave it to you gentlemen to form your own judgment whether that would be a real weakness to him, on a national ticket. If you still believe he is the man to nominate, we will support him."

That conversation practically ended the Gaynor boom; not because the men to whom Murphy had talked were convinced that his argument was very effective, but because his use of such an argument indicated a deep-seated determination not to have Gaynor.

Men who are familiar with the measures which Tammany at that time adopted to kill the Gaynor movement, will not believe in the possible loyalty of Tammany to Gaynor at this time, until they see the actual proof of it.

### THE DOCTORS AND THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITALS.

Whether municipal funds ought to be used for the partial support of privately conducted hospitals was seriously considered at the session of the American Hospital Association, which has been in session in this city, Dr. P. G. Smith, of the Tuberculosis Hospital, made charges against the management of the hospitals in Washington, which doubtless will become the basis of inquiry by the District or the Congressional authorities. It is news, certainly to most Washington people, that there has been something very much like a scramble among the privately managed hospitals for slices of the public fund provided to aid hospitals.

Dr. Smith charges that he has known of cases in which patients died in am-

balances while being hauled from door to door of these private institutions; the doors being closed against them with the polite explanation that "we receive only select cases." If this is true, and if it is indicative of the attitude of those who manage such institutions, if enough cases of the kind can be adduced to warrant such sweeping generalizations as Dr. Smith indulged, then there is certainly need for reform. When the municipal funds provide so large a sum as \$175,000 for aid to hospitals it certainly is the public's right to know whether lines are being drawn at hospital doors against cases in which attention is vastly more needed than consideration of the "select" character of the case.

The impression has been entertained by Washington people that the hospitals here were splendidly administered and that the investment of the public funds was productive of the best results. Certainly the people who pay the money are willing to continue their contributions; there is no other way so reasonable, fair and equitable of providing hospital facilities. But when the public contributes so largely to these institutions, they should be made in the fullest sense public institutions. The antecedents of a patient in need of attention cannot be investigated as a preliminary to his admission to a ward. If Dr. Smith has the basis for charges against the distribution and administration of the hospital funds of the District, he should make specific charges and force inquiry. It is going to be hard to induce most people to believe, even if there have been some mistakes in the administration, that the system as a whole is bad.

### FULTON'S CLAIMS TO FAME ARE DISPUTED.

Just when the Cook-Pearry controversy is at its height, another dispute as to who is entitled to first honors has been stirred up. It is rather belated, it is true, but it bids fair to become most animated, in which Congress will be called on to participate and the statesman at the Capitol to argue pro and con. The question at issue is whether Robert Fulton, who is lauded to the skies in the Hudson-Fulton celebration at New York, really was the inventor of the steamboat or whether this honor belongs of right to James Rumsey, a native of Maryland and for a time a citizen of Virginia, living in Berkeley county, now a part of West Virginia.

Citizens of Berkeley county have set out to have justice done to the memory of Rumsey by having Congress appropriate for a statue in his honor, to be placed in the Hall of Fame in the Capitol. They assert and say ample proof can be presented of that Rumsey exhibited a steamboat on the Potomac river at Shepherdstown, Va., twenty years before the Clermont made its famous trip up the Hudson. It is said to have run successfully.

It is alleged that Robert R. Livingston, the great New Yorker of that day, a business partner of Fulton, is the man whose exploitation of Fulton's steamboat distracted the world's attention from Rumsey and centered it on Fulton. If reports be true, Livingston knew something of the gentle art of the press agent. Rumsey and his friends were lacking in that. New York probably will arise as one man and defend Fulton. If he has been wearing honors belonging to another all these years the facts ought to be known, however. There have been plenty of such cases. In the interest of truth and of keeping history straight, Congress might do a good turn by having a committee dig into the matter. When the committee gets its hand in, it can tackle the Cook-Pearry business and settle officially who really found the North Pole.

### THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS UP TO PEARY.

Weighing public opinion in this polar controversy as accurately as is possible from general indications, it seems that Commander Peary will have to produce substantial evidence, either that he got to the Pole and that Cook didn't get there, or else that he brought back a vastly more useful contribution to the sum of scientific knowledge, if he is to get an even division of the glory.

For there is apparent a disposition to set down Peary as something of a cad about this whole performance. He has made direct and serious charges. If he proves them, well and good; he will have demolished Cook, and laughed him out of consideration as a colossal faker. But if the two men make equally good cases, if Cook produces as convincing evidence as Peary; if both get the approving verdict of science on their claims that they have made the great journey—then Cook stands to profit by the fact that he has behaved himself better than Peary.

In that situation, Peary still has the chance of showing that he conducted a scientific expedition, while Cook's was merely a sporting adventure. The impression at large is that if both men have been to the Pole, Peary is likely to demonstrate that his was the more serious purpose and the more intelligent understanding of what was wanted from him for the enlightenment of the world of science and geography. Peary has made a science of the polar question. He knows what the world needs of learning wants to know; he understands how to take the observations, and how to present their results.

Whether Cook knows this so well as Peary is a question yet to be answered. Cook has not made his great exploits heretofore very fruitful of scientific results. He brought nothing back from the summit of Mount McKinley except the suspicion, which shortly got planted in a good many minds, that he hadn't been there at all. That suspicion has detracted decidedly from the disposition to accept his claims that he reached the Pole. Peary, to the contrary, has a reputation as a conscientious and strictly honest explorer. He has been many times in the north, and whatever may be said about his excesses of temper and his ambition to monopolize the privileges of the roof of the earth, he has been regarded as a strictly reliable witness. In short, Peary doesn't need so many witnesses as does Cook; but if both prove their claims, then the very fact that Peary made an unwarranted attack on Cook will turn the public to the side of the amateur and away from the professional polar explorer.

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### GERMAN SPEED IN NAVAL CONSTRUCTION.

Just when talk of the rapid expansion of the German navy is at its height, an announcement regarding quickness of battleship construction comes from Berlin which is certain to make naval officers and shipbuilders all over the world sit up and take notice. This month two German Dreadnoughts will be launched which were laid down last year. The keel of one of these, the Siegfried, was laid down only last Christmas. It will be launched September 25, thus setting a pace that has surprised even the German official expectations.

To show further the remarkable progress the Germans are making in shipbuilding, it is pointed out that at 11,000-ton transport ship has been built in five months and eighteen days and a 4,000-ton mail steamer has been built in 100 days.

It is such exhibitions of development in the art of naval and merchant ship construction that are giving her competitors, especially Great Britain, anxiety. So far as this country is concerned, the speed shown in battleship construction ought to set a valuable example. In view of what the Germans are accomplishing, there does not appear to be any sound reason why it should require in many cases several years to construct a battleship in the United States. Some disposition is manifested by Congress to go into the subject of naval reform this winter, and if naval reform is undertaken, there should be serious inquiry into the time taken for the construction of vessels. The question has its important economic side, and in time of impending war it would have other aspects of still greater moment.

This new idea of holding lodge meetings in a balloon is not without its advantages. Instead of worrying about a guest they just lose the novice overboard. It is said that after this impressive ceremony he will never tell any secrets.

Folks who swallow all these yarns from Labrador are liable to sharp attacks of pearyntitis.

McMillan was shot in the arctic. Heavier explorers had better wear wooden shoes.

Seeing red ahead for England makes Lord Berezford sort of blue.

If Premier Asquith can't dislodge the suffragettes from his meetings with the fire hose he might mention some bargain sale hose.

That Venusian is the most jealous-minded volcano we know of. As soon as anybody stirs up a little excitement by discovering the North Pole, it goes and gets active just for meanness.

The appointment of a new baseball manager has one good result at least. It inspires imaginative fans to tell what we are going to do next year.

The decrease in immigration is thought to be due to the settlement of Poles in the Far North.

Women are reading the papers as never before. Suffragettes—No, milliners wanting to find out what discovery they can model the new hats after.

This proposed Trophy Room would be a good place to keep the naval ensign that contrary to the naval ensign that Peary nailed to the Pole that doesn't exist. Many people would want to see a thing like that.

A new law goes into effect January 1, making it a crime to write a check for less than a dollar. Some of us would find it a crime right now to draw a check for less than a dollar.

The sect that declares the crust of the earth is soon going to scale off carrying all wicked folks with it evidently believes in a sliding scale for the wages of sin.

Munsey reliability runners who use that contrary to all reports feeding muds to New Jersey mosquitoes will not keep them from puncturing tires.

Minnesota is not alone in her grief.

If everything goes up in cost the ultimate consumer will have to commit suicide by holding his breath. Any other way will be too expensive.

Aviators refuse to adopt fall styles in aeroplanes.

The lexicon of youth is now being searched to find out how long it is till Thanksgiving Day.

The best way to reduce swollen fortunes is a taxicab.

Latest Eskimo slang—"By Gum."

South to the right of him,  
South to the left of him,  
South to the front of him,  
Earth had no sections.  
"Brooklyn's the place for me,  
I'm going home," says he,  
"Where I can always see  
To follow directions."

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Experimental Plant Demonstrates Capabilities—Cuban Lands Also Taken.

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Travelers who have recently returned from that part of the world together with some data which consular agents have presented, have made it apparent that the great American corporation is much farther along the road to control of a vast business in the Orient, than is generally known.

Only rather meagre information has been obtainable as to the holdings of iron and coal which have been gathered up for the steel corporation in China; but it is very positively declared that vast deposits in the province of Shan Si, believed by many people to be the richest in the world, have come into the control of the corporation.

Regarded as Ideal Region.

For many years this province of Shan Si has been regarded by experts as familiar with its conditions, as the ideal region, of all the world, for iron and steel manufacture. If the iron ore deposits of the upper lake region were right alongside great coal mines; and if the very best grade of limestone were immediately available—then the conditions would be fairly comparable to that existing in Shan Si. Everything needed for the most economical production of the best iron and steel is at hand; even the transportation facilities will be of the best, because of the possibility of developing at small cost the best water transit.

The American Steel trust, it is now explained, a number of years ago, conceived the idea that soon or late there must be a tremendous demand for iron and steel in China. Whenever the business of building railroads fairly gets started in China, the demand for steel has never been known in the world. The steel corporation's far-sighted managers anticipated this condition. They investigated the possibility of making steel rails and other heavy iron products in China. They found that the country has everything necessary to produce an unlimited supply of the cheapest labor in the world.

Materials Are At Hand.

Efforts were inaugurated to secure control of necessary deposits of coal, iron and limestone; and these have been gathered in. There is declared to be enough of these materials, now under the domination of the Steel trust in Shan Si, to make rails and other steel for all the railroads China will need in hundreds of years, even if it should take on the most unexpected development.

A number of years ago a plant was started to steel products of the far East, quite as completely as it now does that of the United States. It is explained that a good deal of mystery surrounds the whole campaign in China. Little has been made public by the steel corporation people about it, either here or in the East. But enough has been made public in Washington, through both official and unofficial channels, to make it very apparent that a huge speculation in the development of this development by the ironmasters of the United States.

It comes also from the Alabama iron district an interesting narrative of projects of the steel corporation for the further development of the industry in Alabama, and there smelted. The reduction of the duty on ore gave the assurance that this project would be carried out. The transportation will be as cheap or cheaper than bringing the Lake Superior ores to the Pennsylvania furnaces, and the ores are declared much better than those of the Superior region. Vast changes in the whole iron and steel industry are predicted as a result of this development of the Cuban ores, and the South is in line for immense benefits.

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It comes also from the Alabama iron district an interesting narrative of projects of the steel corporation for the further development of the industry in Alabama, and there smelted. The reduction of the duty on ore gave the assurance that this project would be carried out. The transportation will be as cheap or cheaper than bringing the Lake Superior ores to the Pennsylvania furnaces, and the ores are declared much better than those of the Superior region. Vast changes in the whole iron and steel industry are predicted as a result of this development of the Cuban ores, and the South is in line for immense benefits.

Will Dominate Far East.